

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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## Comments from the CEO

### Co-ops push for commonsense replacement of Clean Power Plan

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to repeal the Clean Power Plan (CPP), a regulation that *would* have drastically increased costs and impacted many electric cooperatives across the nation. Now the EPA, informed by public comment, must work to develop a commonsense replacement plan.

Amicalola EMC, Georgia EMC and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) are glad to see the rule go. We're working with NRECA to encourage the EPA to replace the rule with a plan that focuses on individual power plants.

We hope the agency will craft a replacement rule to address power plant emissions legally, provide co-ops with the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their members' needs and support co-ops in their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Electric co-ops depend on a diverse fuel mix to meet the energy needs of 42 million members across the nation, protect reliability of the

energy system and ensure affordable power. The fact is that no two electric co-ops are exactly alike. The nation's 900 electric co-ops rely on a diverse fuel mix to meet members' energy needs, maintain reliability and ensure affordability. Each one makes strategic long-term investments in energy sources that make the most sense for them. Any new regulation needs to account for

this reality.

This flexibility to pursue a diverse fuel mix allows co-ops to respond to local and regional factors and member preferences, while ensuring affordable and reliable power. Past federal policy pushed cooperatives away from

natural gas use and toward developing coal-based electric generation. In many cases, co-op members are still paying for those facilities—and the roughly \$12 billion in pollution control measures that were added to them since the early 1990s.

As it turns out, electric co-ops and other utilities are already making significant changes in how they generate power. Co-ops and their members value a healthy

environment.

Market forces and members' interests are driving co-ops to further diversify their electric generation portfolios. As a result, co-op-owned coal-fired generation has dropped 9 percent since 2014, and co-op solar capacity has increased five times in just the past two years.

We live in a carbon-constrained world and electric co-ops are reducing their carbon footprint. In fact, since 2005, co-ops have increased electric generation by 15 million megawatt-hours while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10 percent.

Given the progress happening without the CPP, you may ask why we want the EPA to go back to the drawing board to come up with a replacement rule. The main reason is certainty. A workable, commonsense rule that adheres to the law will clarify the rules of the road for co-ops, which will then be better able to make smart, long-term investments in electric generation. Regulatory certainty is an essential ingredient in ensuring a reliable supply of affordable power.

Co-ops are looking forward to working with the EPA on a plan that gets it right this time around.



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

**Electric co-ops are encouraging the EPA to replace the CPP with a plan that allows for smart, long-term investments in electric generation.**

# In packing for trip, delegates leave comfort zone at home

A few months before the Washington Youth Tour (WYT) each year, delegates from Georgia's electric cooperatives receive a suggested packing list for the weeklong trip. Among other items, the list includes six casual touring outfits, two dressy outfits, comfortable shoes, rain gear and sunscreen.

One thing not on the recommended list, though, is each delegate's comfort zone. It's definitely excess baggage for this trip.

Stepping boldly outside the familiar and being flexible and open to new people and activities are part of the leadership experience designed to help delegates grow in many ways so the trip can have a lasting—often lifelong—impact.

Forgoing the comfort zone is a



**U.S. Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), of the 9th Congressional District, center, back row, meets with Amicalola WYT delegates Trey Lunn, of Pickens County, second from left; Makayla Roberson, of Gilmer County, third from left; Garrett Martin, of Gilmer County, to the right of Collins; and Dalton Crowe, of Pickens County, at the end on the right.**

common theme in the surveys that WYT delegates complete after the trip ends. The 2017 group, which numbered 113, is no exception.

“A lot of times, your comfort zone is holding you back from achieving something, whether it's meeting new people or trying new things,” says Dalton Crowe, who represented Amicalola EMC in Jasper on the 2017 tour.

“Sit with someone new every day, go out and dance on the dance floor, ask as many questions as possible, thank your bus driver at every stop and don't let the exhaustion get to you,” advises Jennifer Thorpe, a delegate from Coastal Electric Cooperative in Midway.

“Each person had their own back story, ideas, beliefs and personalities,” says Tillman Kinley, who represented Hartwell-based Hart EMC.

“Despite our differences, I now have a family of 112 new people who will be great friends, no matter how different we are.”

At the end of the tour, the delegates' parents notice the dramatic impact that just one short week can have.

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving my daughter the experience of a lifetime,” writes one mother to Senior Tour Director Gale Cutler, of Georgia EMC in Tucker. “Her world is larger, her vision longer and her aspirations greater.”



**2017 delegates in front of the White House: from left, Dalton Crowe (Pickens), Garrett Martin (Gilmer), Makayla Roberson (Gilmer) and Trey Lunn (Pickens).**

**Now accepting scholarship and Washington Youth Tour applications!**

***Deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2018***

High school seniors may now apply for the 2018 Amicalola EMC Scholarship competition. Applications will be accepted online at [www.amicalolaemc.com/MyCommunity/scholarships](http://www.amicalolaemc.com/MyCommunity/scholarships). Winners will be determined based upon weighted GPA, SAT (verbal plus math) or ACT (composite) scores and financial need.

High school juniors may apply for the 2018

Washington Youth Tour, to be held June 7-14, 2018. Applications will be accepted online at [www.amicalolaemc.com/MyCommunity/YouthTour](http://www.amicalolaemc.com/MyCommunity/YouthTour). Winners will be chosen, in part, based upon letters of recommendation and personal interviews.

The deadline to enter both programs is Jan. 31, 2018. For more information, contact Stacey Fields, Director of Public Relations, 706-253-5287 or [staceyf@amicalolaemc.com](mailto:staceyf@amicalolaemc.com).

# License plate pays tribute to linemen and benefits burn patients and families



For the vital work linemen perform in extraordinary circumstances such as Tropical Storm Irma, and for their commitment every day, there is now a specialty license plate to honor Georgia's electric utility lineworkers.

Proceeds will benefit the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation (SFBF), which provides assistance to burn patients and their families at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

Georgians who are interested in purchasing a Thank a Lineman license plate can visit <http://www.sfbf.net/License-Plate> when renewing annual motor vehicle registrations.



**CEO Todd Payne congratulates Lineman Jamey Chapman, of the Eastern District Office in Dahlonega. Chapman is the Amicalola EMC winner of one of Georgia's first Thank a Lineman vehicle license plates.**



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Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

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- 706-253-0359
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**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
*Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays*

#### Beacon Editor:

Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



## Protecting your financial information

In an effort to provide our members with the highest level of security possible, and to comply with stricter PCI (Payment Card Industry) protocols, beginning Jan. 1, 2018, we are no longer accepting *verbal* credit card numbers over the phone.

You may still pay your bill using your credit card through our automated telephone system or through the bill paying option on our website.

- To use the automated telephone system, dial 706-253-5200, 706-276-

5200 or 706-864-7979. Press 1 at the prompt and enter your account number (found in the upper left corner of your bill).

- To use the website, go to [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), choose My Account, Bill Paying Options, Pay Online, Payments. First-time users will be required to enter their account number in both the account number/user ID field and the password field.



### A personal assistant that never sleeps.

Having access to our automated telephone system is like having a personal assistant who never sleeps. You can pay your bill 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

# 10 quick tips to avoid high winter bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

1



Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.

2



Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.

3



Turn off lights when not in use.

4



Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.

5



Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.

6



Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.

7



Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

8



Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.

9



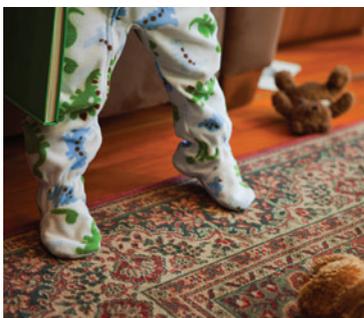
Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.

10



Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!

